



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

June 2, 2014

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE ON THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2015 COMMERCE- JUSTICE-SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

This memorandum is to provide the Board with an update on the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill (H.R. 4660), which the House passed by a vote of 321 to 87 on May 30, 2014.

### Highlights of House-Passed Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill

The House-passed CJS appropriations bill provides \$51.2 billion in overall funding for discretionary programs and activities in FFY 2015, which is \$398.0 million less funding than in FFY 2014. Funding for programs of County interest include:

**State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP):** Increases SCAAP funding from \$180.0 million in FFY 2014 to \$210.0 million in FFY 2015. Annual SCAAP appropriations have steadily fallen from \$410.0 million in FFY 2008 to the all-time low of \$180.0 million in FFY 2014. Prior to FFY 2009, annual SCAAP funding averaged \$457.0 million.

**Trafficking Victim Services:** Increases funding for trafficking victim services and activities from \$14.3 million in FFY 2014 to \$45.4 million in FFY 2015. Under the bill, the Department of Justice (DOJ) would decide how the funding is used, including how much funds would be awarded through programs for which the County is eligible to apply for competitive grants to assist victims of human trafficking.

**Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG):** Increases formula grant funding for JAG from \$345.0 million in FFY 2014 to \$353.0 million in FFY 2015.

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Each Supervisor  
June 2, 2014  
Page 2

**COPS Hiring Grants:** Appropriates \$180.0 million for COPS Hiring Grants, the same amount as in FFY 2014.

**DNA Analysis and Forensic Programs:** Appropriates \$125.0 million for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, the same amount as in FFY 2014.

**Juvenile Justice:** Reduces funding for juvenile justice programs from \$254.5 million in FFY 2014 to \$223.5 million in FFY 2015.

**National Instant Criminal Background Check System:** Increases funding for grants to states to upgrade criminal and mental health records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System from \$58.5 million in FFY 2014 to \$78.0 million in FFY 2015.

Similar to recent years, the bill includes language authorizing DOJ to reprogram up to 10 percent of the total appropriation for any state and local law enforcement activity (including SCAAP) to other activities. This authority is problematic because the Obama Administration supports the termination of SCAAP. Moreover, in FFYs 2012 and 2013, DOJ used this authority to transfer 10 percent of total SCAAP appropriations (roughly \$24.0 million each year) to other programs and activities. The bill also includes language which would deny Federal assistance under the bill, such as SCAAP and JAG, to state or local governments that have any law, policy, or procedure that contravenes Federal immigration laws relating to the immigration, deportation, or removal of aliens. This policy is aimed at jurisdictions that do not cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security in identifying, detaining, or removing criminal aliens.

### **Senate Schedule**

The Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee currently is scheduled to mark up its FFY 2015 CJS appropriations bill on June 3, 2014 with the full Senate Appropriations Committee mark-up scheduled for June 5, 2014. The Senate Appropriations Committee has allocated the same amount (\$51.2 billion) in overall discretionary funding to the CJS appropriations bill as in the House-passed bill. The Senate Appropriations Committee typically embargoes its bill until the day of the subcommittee mark-up.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:MT:OR:ma

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist